AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application, and all have been rejected in the Office action of January 18, 2007. Claims 1, 6 and 11 are independent claims. Claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-14 depend from independent claims 1, 6 and 11, respectively. Claim 15 depends from claim 14, which in turn depends from independent claim 11.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A refuse cart lifting device comprising:

a baseplate having a front side and a back side;

a motor attached to the front side of the baseplate, the motor having a rotatable shaft;

a faceplate, the faceplate having an outer surface and an inner surface, the faceplate also having an upper and a lower end;

a saddle fixedly attached to the outer surface of the faceplate;

at least one lifting arm having a first end and a second end, the first end of the at least one lifting arm attached to the rotatable shaft, the second end of the at least one lifting arm attached to the faceplate;

a sliding latch, the sliding latch having an inner and outer surface, the outer surface in sliding proximity with the inner surface of the faceplate;

at least one latch arm, the at least one latch arm having a first end and a second end, the first end of the at least one latch arm pivotally connected to the front side of the baseplate, and the second end of the at least one latch arm fixedly attached to the sliding latch; and

wherein a substantial portion of the ~~lower end of the~~ faceplate is capable of being retracted below and ~~substantially~~ behind the baseplate when the refuse cart lifting device is not in use, and wherein a substantial portion of the ~~upper end of the~~ faceplate is capable of being

rotated above and ~~substantially~~ behind the baseplate when the lifting device is emptying a refuse cart.

2. (Previously Presented): The refuse cart lifting device of claim 1, where the at least one lifting arm is connected to the inner surface of the faceplate.

3. (Previously Presented): The refuse cart lifting device of claim 1, further comprising a sliding latch guide attached to the inner surface of the faceplate, the sliding latch guide in sliding proximity with the sliding latch.

4. (Previously Presented): The refuse cart lifting device of claim 1, where the motor is capable of rotating the rotatable shaft at least 210 degrees.

5. (Previously Presented): The refuse cart lifting device of claim 1, where the at least one lifting arm is shaped to direct the faceplate above and substantially behind the baseplate when the lifter is emptying a refuse cart.

6. (Currently Amended): A refuse collection vehicle, the refuse collection vehicle including a refuse hopper for the collection of trash, the refuse hopper having a lower hopper edge over which refuse containers are emptied into the refuse hopper, the refuse collection vehicle further including a refuse cart lifting device, the refuse cart lifting device comprising:

a baseplate attached to the refuse collection vehicle below and adjacent to the hopper edge, the baseplate having a front side facing away from the refuse collection vehicle and a back side facing the refuse collection vehicle;

a motor attached to the front side of the baseplate, the motor having a rotatable shaft;

a faceplate, the faceplate having an outer surface and an inner surface, the faceplate also having an upper end and a lower end;

a saddle fixedly attached to the outer surface of the faceplate;

at least one lifting arm having a first end and a second end, the first end of the at least one lifting arm attached to the rotatable shaft, the second end of the at least one lifting arm attached to the faceplate;

a sliding latch, the sliding latch having an inner and outer surface, the outer surface in sliding proximity with the inner surface of the faceplate;

at least one latch arm, the at least one latch arm having a first end and a second end, the first end of the at least one latch arm pivotally connected to the front side of the baseplate, and the second end of the at least one latch arm fixedly attached to the sliding latch; and

wherein a substantial portion of the ~~lower end of the~~ faceplate is capable of being retracted below and ~~substantially~~ behind the baseplate when the refuse cart lifting device is not in use, and wherein a substantial portion of the ~~upper end of the~~ faceplate is capable of being rotated above and ~~substantially~~ inward of the lower hopper edge when the lifting device is emptying a refuse cart.

7. (Previously Presented): The refuse collection vehicle of claim 6, where the refuse collection vehicle is a rear-loading vehicle.

8. (Previously Presented): The refuse collection vehicle of claim 6, where the refuse collection vehicle is a side-loading vehicle.

9. (Previously Presented): The refuse cart lifting device of claim 6, further comprising a sliding latch guide attached to the inner surface of the faceplate, the sliding latch guide in sliding proximity with the sliding latch.

10. (Currently Amended): The refuse collection vehicle of claim 6, where the at least one lifting arm is shaped to direct a substantial portion of the faceplate above and ~~substantially~~ inward of the lower hopper edge when the lifting device is emptying a refuse cart.

11. (Currently Amended): A method for emptying refuse carts having a first and second lifting point into a refuse collection vehicle ~~with~~ using a refuse cart lifter, the refuse cart lifter having a faceplate, the refuse collection vehicle including a refuse hopper for the collection of trash, and the refuse hopper having a lower hopper edge over which refuse containers are emptied into the refuse hopper, the method comprising:

operating the refuse cart lifter from a retracted position wherein a substantial portion of the faceplate is below and ~~substantially~~ inward of the lower hopper edge to a position where the refuse cart lifter engages the first lifting point of the refuse cart;

further operating the refuse cart lifter to lift the refuse cart up and towards the refuse collection vehicle and causing the refuse cart lifter to engage the second lifting point of the refuse cart; and

operating the refuse cart lifter still further to a dumping position wherein a substantial portion of the faceplate ~~empty refuse from the refuse cart into the refuse hopper at a location substantially~~ is located inward of the lower hopper edge.

12. (Previously Presented): The method for emptying refuse carts into a refuse collection vehicle of claim 11, where the lower hopper edge in the claimed steps is located along a side of the refuse collection vehicle.

13. (Previously Presented): The method for emptying refuse carts into a refuse collection vehicle of claim 11, where the lower hopper edge in the claimed steps is located along the rear of the refuse collection vehicle.

14. (Previously Presented): The method for emptying refuse carts into a refuse collection vehicle of claim 11, wherein the steps of operating the refuse cart lifter include operating a motor attached to a baseplate to rotate at least one lifting arm, wherein the at least one lifting arm operably attaches the motor to a faceplate, the faceplate having a saddle and a sliding latch in sliding proximity to the faceplate, the faceplate operably attached to the baseplate by at least one latch arm.

15. (Previously Presented): The method for emptying refuse carts into a refuse collection vehicle of claim 14, where the faceplate further includes a sliding latch guide.